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# Lamorinda Schools

Joaquin Moraga • Lafayette Elementary • Los Perales • Miramonte • Orinda Intermediate • Sleepy Hollow • Springhill • Stanley Middle • Wagner Ranch

## Compost Coral: Integrating Hands-on Activities at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate

By Sophie Braccini

What are parents, teachers and children doing spending their Saturday mornings at JM? They're building the new "JM Compost Coral," a 10'x30' structure made of untreated redwood and vinyl coated wire. The Coral will contain worm bins and biostack compost piles that will recycle the school's yard clippings and waste from lunch. This easy and natural process provides excellent and inexpensive fertilizer for the school's many flower and vegetable gardens. Vice Principal Brad Carn said, "JM is joining the green revolution."

It all started last year, when a group of teachers decided to incorporate gardening into JM's curriculum. Pam

Bailes, Elaine Guttman, Dawn Lezak, Lois Mead and Christie Santodomingo designed the project and applied to the Moraga Educational Foundation for a mini-grant. "The students benefit tremendously from hands-on work," Bailes said. "They love to interact with natural processes and the understanding they get never leaves them."

Once the idea was hatched, it took the support of the community to make it happen. When the program received \$900 from M.E.F. it was time for parents to roll up their sleeves. Claire Curtin was one of the most instrumental parents working on the project. She contacted Deva Rajan, founder of Canyon

Construction and now the inspiration behind Moraga's Community Garden. Rajan brought construction and composting knowledge to the project as well as a connection to Truitt and White, a building supply company in Berkeley. According to Curtin, "That company was amazingly supportive in meeting the group's limited budget and delivered high quality materials for free." Since the Moraga School District has established a policy restricting the use of potentially harmful pesticides and chemicals, the redwood chosen as the material of choice for the Coral is untreated.

Over the last few weeks about 30 community volunteers, including JM students doing community service and members of Scout Troops #246 and #212, have been working on the Coral. The Leadership class of JM has been involved in the project since its inception and they will have a role to play in the maintenance and use of the compost. Composting will start this year and more campus-wide programs will be developed around the project next year.

As the program evolves, teachers plan to apply for more grants. Bailes is pleased: "Now students will be able to be instrumental in the whole natural cycle, from food to waste, from waste to compost, from compost to growing plants and plants back to their plate."



8th graders Leanne Woehleke and Connor Ludwig nail the fence to the posts while Shelby Watts (6th grade), Claire Curtin and Steve Woehleke lay chicken wire to discourage unwanted guests

## Keith Hawkins Speaks at Campolino

By Sarah Henningsen

On March 19th, nationally renowned speaker Keith Hawkins engaged the Campolino student body in a speech filled with humor and insight. After founding his company, Real Inspiration Inc., over a decade ago, Hawkins has traveled globally to provide students of all ages with advice, motivation, and leadership training. His assembly last week accomplished all of this in a very short time.

The Campolino Leadership class arranged for Hawkins to speak at the school after hearing him at a leadership conference earlier in the year. Julianne Kingery, the Commissioner of Assemblies, organized the event and introduced Hawkins to the Campolino audience.

Throughout his presen-

tation, Hawkins nicely balanced his many jokes with advice pertinent to the lives of teenagers. At the beginning, he instructed everyone to "holla" in order to energize the audience and then sarcastically teased the students for such high pitched screams.

On a more serious level, Hawkins encouraged the students to avoid living in fear, or what therapists and inspirational speakers alike refer to as False Evidence Appearing Real. He also emphasized the importance of "owning" one's time as opposed to renting it, something he himself struggled with during an adolescence filled with abuse, poverty, and apathy.

Hawkins' enthusiastic and positive attitude charmed audience members of all



Keith Hawkins

ages, students and teachers alike. He also spoke at Miramonte last week, and students at both schools enjoyed hearing this inspirational individual speak about the decisions students must make every day. "People don't listen to what you say. They look at what you do," Hawkins reminded the audience.

## Students Take the Prize from the Orinda Arts Council

### Orinda Arts Council 2007 Student Visual Arts Competition Winners

#### Photography

1st Place (\$350): Lucy Wittenberg, "Be Mine?"  
Grade 10, Miramonte High School

2nd Place (tie-\$200 ea): Molly Turrentine, "Admiration"  
Grade 11, Bentley High School, and Kaitlin Strang, "Devan"  
Grade 11, Campolino High School

3rd Place (\$100): Ketti Salemne, "Approaching the Unknown"  
Grade 10, Campolino High School

#### 2-D

1st Place (\$350): Kaylan George, "Kings"  
Grade 12, Campolino High School

2nd Place (\$250): Madison McClintock, "Experiment"  
Grade 12, Campolino High School

3rd Place (tie- \$100 ea.): Andy Hurrell, "Protest"  
Grade 12, Orinda Academy, and Kelsey Harrison, "Cat"  
Grade 12, Miramonte High School

#### 3-D

1st Place (\$350): Richard Alex Klevan, "Pointed Amphora"  
Grade 12, Miramonte High School

2nd Place (\$250): Daniel Seymour, "Orcish Fishing Pole"  
Grade 12, Miramonte High School

3rd Place (tie- \$100 ea.): Eva Imber, "Propaganda: Feed the Pig"  
Grade 12, Miramonte High School, Marisa Rowland, "I Am"  
Grade 10, Miramonte High School, and Alena Field, "Coke"  
Grade 10, Campolino High School



"Pointed Amphora," by Richard Alex Klevan, 3-D entry, 1st place.

Photo by Lee Borrowman

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